

Windsorbury Nt. June 22nd 1848

Dear Brother,

Your letter of June 10th was gratefully received: and at your request I send you a few lines in return; You propound to me certain questions with regard to your entering college next year, and request me to state my reasons why you should not do so. In answer to your interrogatories, I have but few words to reply. Unless my memory greatly deceives me, my reasons were fully stated in my last communication to you. I have no others to offer than those which were expressed or implied in that letter. If you wish to have ^{them} stated in a more comprehensive manner, I will barely recapitulate them, without repeating any farther comments.

They may be reduced to these three. 1st So rapid and vigorous ^{a course of} study at your present age and circumstances, will be greatly liable to injure your health, and thereby unfit you for future usefulness; 2nd So hasty a course of study, at so young an age, it is more than probable, that your knowledge will be less profound, and your discipline of mind less salutary, than you would receive by a longer course, at a more advanced age. 3^d It is impossible for father to furnish us with sufficient funds, to all go to college at once, I felt myself in duty bound to remain out of college until Summer's expenses were nearly through, in order that I might receive some present assistance from him. And I considered it likewise your duty, under our present state of pecuniary embarrassment, to proceed moderately, until there should be a similar prospect for you. ^{My} Father's resources, are now nearly exhausted; and should Summer be unfortunate.

in his efforts to earn money, I shall doubtless be under the necessity of withdrawing from college myself.

These are my chief reasons; and if you wish for a further discussion of them, I have only to refer you again to my former letter. Of course I must leave you to judge of their real weight according to your own convictions of right; and also to make your own inferences, as to how much they were prompted by selfish motives, and how much from a regard to your own welfare. You remark that you have considered me influenced by envious feelings, in giving my advice; a judgment which is alike severe upon me, and uncharitable in yourself.

Heaven forbid, that I should ever wish to stand in the way of your reputation as a scholar, or envy you for the abilities, in which you may be superior to myself. But I will forbear to enlarge upon this topic. The advice which I gave you, was given as the advice of a friend and brother; But if, after mature deliberation, it seems to be right and proper that you should pursue your intended course, I wish no longer to oppose you.

You say that you have written to father, stating to him your feelings upon religious subjects. I am glad to hear this, and hope that he may return you a favorable answer. I did not intend in my letter to give you to understand that I had no hope in Christ. But there is a constant struggle going on in my mind. Sometimes I feel that I have reason to hope, and then at others I am tormented by the most distressing doubts. I often feel sensible that I do not enjoy that peace of mind which the true christian should enjoy, and which I think I might enjoy, if my heart was right in the sight of God. Rev. Mr Wood has lately written me a letter, urging me to unite with his church in vacation, and setting forth

the matter in such terms, that I hardly know what answer to return to him. He wishes me to communicate with our parents about it, and answer him as soon as I am able. With regard to this, I feel that I am but ill prepared to take such a step, new doubts arise in my mind. And besides I know too well what would be the feelings of father & mother, if I should write them in regard to the subject. Whether they would be excited to irreconcilable enmity, or whether ~~so~~ ~~they~~ they would reproach me with ridicule, I know not. O what a warfare is this between christian duty and worldly interests! If father returns you an answer, I desire you to let me know immediately, I may not write to him until then. I desire to do my duty, but my mind is bewildered; I hardly know my duty, and what is ~~so~~ ~~as~~ clear, I lack courage to perform.

Brother, remember my request, - always mention me in your prayers; Pray that I may have strength and fortitude to discharge all my duties, and not bring reproach upon the cause of christ.

As ever your affectionate brother
Solon Albee,

P.S. (Have heard nothing from home, directly of late, Mr. Wood wrote that the folks there were all well.)

Solon. Albee
1848.

Mr. Ellery Albee
Meriden, N.H.

